

REVIEW GUIDANCE

Wisconsin Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Strategy

Why a state strategy?

A state strategy will translate the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration recommendations (<http://www.glrc.us/>) to Wisconsin specific actions and provide a vehicle for coordinating efforts and developing shared priorities. With the increased activity that calls attention to the Great Lakes, we want to collect project ideas and Great Lake restoration needs from other plans (Remedial Action Plans, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, North American Water fowl Plan etc) to articulate what needs to be done in Wisconsin to protect and restore our Great Lakes. We will use the strategy for allocation of dedicated Great Lakes funds, education and promotion of Great Lakes issues, and to support grant applications for various funding sources.

What process is being used?

- We began with the Governor's 8 priority areas from the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration as the framework for the strategy
- Initially, we solicited ideas from the university community in March 2005
- We circulated initial drafts for input from DNR staff, federal and state agencies, and advocacy interest groups throughout 2005.
- We held 5 public meetings during the summer of 2005 across the Great Lakes basin to solicit public input
- We are now seeking a final review by DNR staff---final in the context of lasting for two years as a road map for actions against which we will be measuring our levels of activity and success.
- The strategy will evolve over time and thus provide additional opportunities for input

How will we assess progress?

We expect to report progress in a biennial report on the state of the Great Lakes in Wisconsin much like Michigan does currently and possibly include some public meetings to address concerns or questions. This may be done concurrently with reporting at the regional level to respond to the regional recommendations released last December through the Council of Great Lakes Governors and the other collaboration partners.

What do we want from you?

We want to identify specific projects that will help us achieve the goals of the Strategy. What needs to be done, where and why---what will be the result of the project? We need to characterize project results in some ecological terms. As an example, instead of measuring the amount of wetlands restored as the success story, we would measure success in terms of nutrients removed or increased breeding pairs of blue-wing teal or some other ecological response. All the funding sources are keenly interested in being able to justify expenditures by positive and measurable ecological responses. Moving toward this is not easily done but is necessary if we are to secure outside funding.

Links:

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

<http://www.glrc.us/>

Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/wistrategy/>